

Amendment submitted in response
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Amendments to the Claims

Claims have been reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

Claims 1-74 (cancelled)

Claim 75 (new): A method for transferring a value representing a commodity in an electronic transaction comprising:

- providing a buyer value note, the buyer value note including a buyer public key, the value, and a first bank signature;

- appending the buyer value note with a seller public key;

- endorsing the buyer value note with a buyer endorsement signature such that the buyer endorsement signature is verified with the buyer public key;

- creating a seller value note, the seller value note including a seller public key and the value; and

- endorsing the seller value note with a second bank signature whereby the value is transferred to the seller.

Claim 76 (new): The method of claim 75 further comprising:

- after the creating a seller value note,

- disassociating the buyer public key and the buyer endorsement signature from the seller value note; and

- deleting the buyer public key and the buyer endorsement signature such that the seller value note is anonymous with respect to the buyer value note.

Claim 77 (new): The method of claim 75 wherein the buyer value note further comprises expiry information such that the buyer value note is not redeemable outside of an expiry date.

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Claim 78 (new): The method of claim 75 wherein the buyer value note further comprises identification information for uniquely identifying the buyer value note.

Claim 79 (new): The method of claim 78 wherein the identification information is selected from the group consisting of: a date of issuance, a time of issuance, a date of expiry, a time of expiry, an identification code, and an identification string.

Claim 80 (new): The method of claim 75 wherein the buyer value note further comprises a redemption time such that the buyer value note is not redeemable before the redemption time.

Claim 81 (new): The method of claim 75 wherein the buyer value note further comprises a guarantee term such that the buyer value note is guaranteed only within the guarantee term.

Claim 82 (new): A method for transferring at least a portion of a value representing a commodity in an electronic transaction comprising:

- providing a first buyer value note, the first buyer value note including a buyer public key, a value, and a first bank signature;

- appending the first buyer value note with a seller public key, a new value representing the at least the portion of the value, a change value representing the value less the new value, and a buyer change public key;

- endorsing the first buyer value note with a buyer endorsement signature such that the buyer endorsement signature is verified with the buyer public key;

- creating a seller value note, the seller value note including a seller public key and the new value;

- endorsing the seller value note with a second bank signature whereby the new value is transferred to the seller;

- creating a second buyer value note, the second buyer value note including the buyer change public key and the change value; and

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endorsing the second buyer value note with a third bank signature whereby the change value is retained by the buyer.

Claim 83 (new): The method of claim 82 further comprising:

after the creating a seller value note,

disassociating the buyer public key and the buyer endorsement signature from the seller value note; and

deleting the buyer public key and the buyer endorsement signature such that the seller value note is anonymous with respect to the buyer value note.

Claim 84 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein the buyer value note further comprises expiry information such that the buyer value note is not redeemable outside of an expiry date.

Claim 85 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein the buyer value note further comprises identification information for uniquely identifying the buyer value note.

Claim 86 (new): The method of claim 85 wherein the identification information is selected from the group consisting of: a date of issuance, a time of issuance, a date of expiry, a time of expiry, an identification code, and an identification string.

Claim 87 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein the buyer value note further comprises a redemption time such that the buyer value note is not redeemable before the redemption time.

Claim 88 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein the buyer value note further comprises a guarantee term such that the buyer value note is guaranteed only within the guarantee term.

Claim 89 (new): A method for exchanging a first value representing a first commodity for a second value representing a second commodity in an electronic transaction comprising:
providing a buyer value note, the buyer value note representative of the first value;

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providing a seller value note for exchange with the buyer value note, the seller value note representative of the second value;

executing the buyer value note to the seller;

optionally executing the seller value note to the buyer;

if the seller does not execute the seller value note,

recovering the buyer value note such that the first value is retained by the buyer;

else,

receiving the seller value note by the buyer; and

receiving the buyer value note by the seller; and

endorsing the buyer value note and the seller value note such that the first value and the second value are exchanged.

Claim 90 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein the executing the buyer value note to the seller comprises:

appending the buyer value note with the seller public key, the second value, and a requested endorsement signature; and

endorsing the buyer value note with a buyer endorsement signature such that the buyer endorsement signature is verified with the buyer public key.

Claim 91 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein the optionally executing the seller value note to the buyer comprises:

appending the seller value note with the buyer public key; and

endorsing the seller value note with a seller endorsement signature such that the seller endorsement signature is verified with the seller public key.

Claim 92 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein the endorsing the buyer value note and the seller value note such that the first value and the second value are exchanged comprises:

creating a second buyer value note, the second buyer value note including the buyer public key and the second value;

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endorsing the second buyer value note with a third bank signature whereby the second value is transferred to the buyer;

creating a second seller value note, the second seller value note including the seller public key and the first value; and

endorsing the second seller value note with a fourth bank signature whereby the first value is transferred to the seller.

Claim 93 (new): A method for exchanging a first value representing a first commodity for a second value representing a second commodity in an electronic transaction comprising:

providing a buyer value note, the buyer value note including a buyer public key, the first value, and a first bank signature;

providing a seller value note for exchange with the buyer value note, the seller value note including a seller public key, the second value, and a second bank signature;

appending the buyer value note with the seller public key, the second value, and a requested endorsement signature;

endorsing the buyer value note with a buyer endorsement signature such that the buyer endorsement signature is verified with the buyer public key;

appending the seller value note with the buyer public key;

endorsing the seller value note with a seller endorsement signature such that the seller endorsement signature is verified with the seller public key;

creating a second buyer value note, the second buyer value note including the buyer public key and the second value;

endorsing the second buyer value note with a third bank signature whereby the second value is transferred to the buyer;

creating a second seller value note, the second seller value note including the seller public key and the first value; and

endorsing the second seller value note with a fourth bank signature whereby the first value is transferred to the seller.

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Claim 94 (new): A system for electronically transferring a value representing a commodity comprising:

- means for generating a digital signature wherein the digital signature is verifiable with a public key;

- means for generating a value note corresponding with a value, the value note encrypted with the digital signature;

- means for endorsing the value note such that the value note is validated;

- means for appending the value note with exchange information; and

- means for generating a new value note corresponding with the exchange information such that the value is transferred to the new value note.

Claim 95 (new): The system of claim 84 further comprising:

- means for dissociating the new value note from the value note; and

- means for verifying the exchange information.

Claim 96 (new): The system of claim 94 wherein the exchange information is selected from the group consisting of: expiry information, identification information, redemption information, and guarantee term information.